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No acting mayor in place

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – The process of who succeeds outgoing Mayor Alex Morse has gotten murkier in the last week.

Late last week, Morse announced he would resign as mayor at 4:30 p.m. on Friday, March 26. The resignation date was a bit sooner than expected by city councilors, but Morse has reached an agreement with the Town of Provincetown to become the town’s new administrator, and will be starting his transition to that new position.

However, his charter-regulated successor, is saying he is not going to take the job for the remainder of the year.

Council President Todd McGee was in line to be the acting mayor until at least the fall 2021 election was completed. Councilors were preparing to vote on a home rule petition to ask the state to waive a charter requirement for a special election.

The city charter stipulates a special election if the mayor

See MAYOR, page 5

Colleens enjoy moment in sun

By Dalton Zbierski
Staff Writer

WEST SPRINGFIELD – When five young women from Holyoke and South Hadley were selected as members of the of the St. Patrick Committee of Holyoke’s Colleen Court in January of 2020, they never could of predicted how the adventure would unfold.

As COVID-19 has done so often, it threw the court’s plans for a loop. Traditionally, the court would fill its calendar making appearances throughout the community, the most important event being the annual Holyoke St. Patrick’s Day Parade.

The parade would be cancelled last year, and again this year, but the court enjoyed a rare moment in the sun in West Springfield on March 13. Colleens representing Agawam, Chicopee, Granby, Holyoke, South Hadley and West Springfield partook in a reverse car parade along the Avenue of States at the Easter State Exposition fairgrounds.

“It’s so exciting,” said Grand Colleen Moira McDermott, a South Hadley



[L to R] Colleen Patricia Hardon, Colleen Hailey Dusseault, Grand Colleen Moira McDermott, Colleen Emily Couture and Colleen Natalie Mayko participated in a reverse car parade at the Big E on March 13.

High School graduate. “I haven’t seen a lot of people in the Parade Committee or even other members of the court in so long

so to be able to see everybody again is amazing. It’s that St. Patrick’s Day excitement; the excitement of being with people

who are so happy to do something like this.”

See COLLEENS, page 6

KNIGHTS RETURN TO TURF



Alexadria Dumoulin works out during football practice earlier this week. The Holyoke High School football team will participate in the Fall 2 season beginning next Friday against Minnechaug. More photos of preseason practice on page 7.

Photo by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com

Councilors sponsor order to investigate HPD

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

HOLYOKE – A city councilor and mayoral candidate has called for an investigation into the Holyoke Police Department in the wake of a viral video posted on YouTube by Off. Rafael Roca.

Roca, in a 43-minute video, accuses the department and specifically Chief Manny Febo of corruption, favoritism, and other wrongdoing. Since the video was posted online last Monday, March 8, Febo has gone on record decrying the video. Though it is not normal to do so, he also went through each of the accusations and addressed what the situation was or how it was handled.

Febo and Mayor Alex Morse have both welcomed any investigation into the department, and have stated how proud they are of the work the department does.

Councilor Rebecca Lisi, who is running for mayor this November, has filed an order with the council to get an “independent assessment” of the department.

Her order has been

co-sponsored by Councilors Libby Hernandez, Juan Anderson-Burgos, and Gladys Lebron-Martinez, one councilor who is not seeking re-election this fall.

“The order also highly resonates with calls for police reform at the national,” a press release from Lisi’s campaign states. “State and local levels that seek to examine issues such as equity in hiring and promotion practices, allocations of budget resources, and the use of coercive or forceful tactics. The proposed study would provide impartial baseline data required to measure the department’s efficiency and effectiveness in serving the community with honesty, integrity and accountability. In December 2020, Governor Baker signed ‘An Act Relative to Justice, Equity and Accountability in Law Enforcement in the Commonwealth,’ a comprehensive police reform initiative that received broad bipartisan support.”

Lisi and her co-sponsors believe a systematic assessment of the culture and practices of the department are needed, and

the use of an independent third party consultant would provide comprehensive data and fact-finding.

“The way I look at it, it’s about fairness for everyone, including the City, the people who live and work here, and the Police Department,” said Anderson-Burgos. “An assessment is the best way to get to the facts. Otherwise, we have incomplete information to work with from a series of back-and-forth statements from individuals who may be biased in one way or another.”

Lisi has a platform of strengthening municipal services and showing transparency. She believes her order reflects those goals.

“We owe it to the taxpayers of this community to ensure that the \$13 million dollars we spend on policing-- nearly 10% of the City’s overall budget-- is yielding a positive return on investment,” said Lisi.

Roca is currently suspension for disobeying an order to remove his viral video.

The order from Lisi will be referred to a sub-committee and voted on by the full council at a later date.

Velis testifies on urgency for Soldiers’ Home bond bill

BOSTON – On Tuesday the Joint Committee on State Administration and Regulatory Oversight held a hearing to discuss H.64, An Act financing reconstruction of the Soldiers’ Home in Holyoke. This bill provides \$400 million in capital authorization to rebuild the Holyoke Soldiers’ Home, a project that Senator John Velis (D-Westfield) called “critical.”

“For too long the facility has been overlooked and left underfunded. After decades of inattention, the Home has surpassed the ability to be renovated and must be rebuilt,” said Senator Velis, who represents the Holyoke Soldiers’ Home and is a Veteran himself. “Those who serve put their lives on the line for the rest of us back home. They have taken care of us and now we must take care of them.”

The project proposal contains 223-234 beds and includes, primarily private rooms, with communal areas for visitation, meals and other services. This layout follows the Patient-Centered Care and Small-Home care models recommended in reports from MIT and UMass that were commissioned by the state.

“I think the PCC, the Patient-Centered Care, is the way going for-



State Sen. John Velis, D-Westfield, testifies regarding the bond bill for the Holyoke Soldiers Home. Submitted photo

ward. That is what we are talking about here and that is what this building will be. This is the only way that we can take care of what is going to be our next generation and current generation of Veterans,” said Senator Velis during his testimony.

Senator Velis noted that the next generation of Veterans will face different challenges than those at the Home today.

“Less than one half of one percent our Country’s population serves today, and this future Home is going to serve generations that have been an all volunteer force with multiple combat deployments,” said Senator Velis, who is the Chair of the Joint Committee on Veterans and Federal Affairs. “We are going to have more Veterans returning with complex medical, social, and psychological challenges than ever before.”

The state is currently working to meet an Aug. 1 deadline for the federal Veterans Administration’s State Veterans Home Construction Grant Program. If approved, the Commonwealth would receive reimbursement for 65% of the \$400 million.

Several officials who testified, including National Guard Adjutant General Gary Keefe and Department of Veteran’s Services Secretary Cheryl Poppe, noted that there is significant federal support for the project.

In order to meet the grant application deadline, the State’s Division of Capital Asset Management and Maintenance (DCAMM) must complete its design of the project, a process that is initiated once the bond bill is enacted.

“Every day this bill is not passed, is another day that DCAMM cannot work on the design,” said Senator Velis. “It is imperative that this bill is passed by April 1 to ensure that DCAMM has enough time for the design development stage.”

Several individuals who testified noted that this project has been a long time coming.

“It’s Holyoke’s time, It’s Holyoke’s turn.” stated DVS Secretary Poppe.

City developing forest equity plan

HOLYOKE – The City of Holyoke, in partnership with the consultant team of Davey Resource Group, Community Circle, and Fair Forests Consulting is developing an Urban Forest Equity Plan. The purpose of the Plan, one of the first of its kind in the U.S. is to provide a healthy and enjoyable environment for residents and help mitigate the impacts of climate change in four priority downtown neighborhoods -- Churchill, Downtown, South Holyoke, and The Flats. The Plan uses an equity lens to ensure that the benefits that trees provide are available to all, and that the planning process includes the meaningful participation of those impacted.

The Plan is an opportunity to:

- Provide a long-term vision and strategy to expand and improve the health and sustainability of Holyoke’s trees.
- Include a tree inventory, planning and management strategies for the maintenance of Holyoke’s trees.
- Promote and increase awareness regarding the many benefits that trees provide.

The City of Holyoke is looking for community input on the Plan and will be hosting two online forums the week of March 22 in two formats - bilingual (Spanish and English) and Spanish only. The same content will be covered

in both forums.

- English/Spanish (Bilingual) on-line public forum - Monday, March 22, 2021 at 6:30 p.m.
- Spanish online public forum - Wednesday, March 24 at 6:30 p.m.

In this forum, participants will learn about Holyoke’s trees and provide feedback on tree issues and opportunities. All participants will be entered into a free raffle to win a \$25 Visa gift card. Winners must be present at the Forum to win.

An online survey to gather public input is also available and can be found at the following links::

- English Version: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/UrbanForestEquity>
- Spanish Version: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/ElPlanForestal>

All those that complete a survey are eligible to be placed in a free raffle to win a \$25 Visa gift card.

For information on how you can participate in the March forums, be involved in the planning process, and to learn about additional opportunities to provide your input please visit: www.holyoke.org/ufep. The Holyoke Urban Forest Equity Plan is funded through a Municipal Vulnerability Preparedness Action Grant from the Commonwealth of Massachusetts For English, call: Yoni 413-322-5615.

License fees waived for 2021

HOLYOKE – As part of an effort to help businesses in Holyoke cope with the ongoing restrictions due to the pandemic, the City of Holyoke’s License Board, with the encouragement of Mayor Morse, has waived the following license fees for the 2021 season:

- Restaurant All Alcohol & Wine/Malt
- Hotel/Innkeeper All Alcohol & Wine/Malt
- Club All Alcohol
- Veteran’s Club All Alcohol
- Common Victualer
- Entertainment
- Automatic Amusement Devices

Any business seeking to renew these licenses for the 2021 season will not have to submit a license fee. For businesses that have already submitted payment for these fees, the City will return



Some license fees are being adjusted due to the pandemic conditions. Submitted photo

those payments to the business. Waiving fees is just one small effort to help local businesses. Utilizing federal Community Development Block grants, the City in partnership with the Greater Holyoke Chamber of Commerce, has also established a small business grant program to assist local businesses during these uncertain times.

HPS staff now eligible for vaccine

HOLYOKE – Massachusetts Gov. Charlie Baker announced this month that teachers, early educators and school staff members will be eligible to begin signing up for COVID-19 vaccine appointments starting on March 11.

The group includes about 400,000 people. Some mass vaccination sites are

expected to set aside particular days to vaccinate educators. More details will be released in the coming days.

HPS has been working closely with Holyoke Health Center to develop a plan to offer the COVID-19 vaccine to HPS employees subject to the supply and demand of COVID-19 vaccine doses.

HCC ranked among best community colleges

HOLYOKE – Holyoke Community College ranks among the best community colleges in the U.S. for 2021, according to AcademicInfluence.com, a technology-driven education evaluation group.

HCC was listed at number 20 out of 839 community colleges nationwide.

In particular, HCC was noted for the strength of its academic programs in criminal justice, nursing, computer science, business, education and engineering.

“In rankings on other sites, students typically see only the largest community colleges. We believe we take a smarter and more comprehensive approach,” said Jed Macosko, academic director of AcademicInfluence.com and professor of physics at Wake Forest University.

Criteria for the schools in this ranking include a minimum of 1,000 enrolled students, full accreditation, and exclusively two-year (or associate) degree pro-

grams.

“We look at how influential the school’s faculty is and then factor in the student body size. We call this metric ‘Concentrated Influence.’ Those community colleges with a strong faculty but comparatively fewer students, schools that might otherwise get lost in the shadows of their larger competitors, now have an opportunity to shine,” said Macosko. “Because students often choose to attend a school nearby, this kind of illumination provides a truer view of how influential their neighborhood community college may actually be, regardless of its size.”

AcademicInfluence.com is part of the EducationAccess group, a family of sites dedicated to lifelong learning and personal growth.

The full list of AcademicInfluence.com’s Top 50 Rankings of Community College can be viewed at academicinfluence.com/articles.

Drive-thru Easter event scheduled



HOLYOKE – Holyoke Parks and Recreation cordially invites the Holyoke community to “Drive into Spring.” This event will take place on Sunday, March 28 from 2 to 3:30 p.m. at Community Field (off Cherry Street).

Wave to the Easter Bunny, Paw Patrol Characters, Nick’s Nest Hot Dog and more surprises.

Music provided by 413 Family Fitness.

Collect an Easter gift bag for children 12 and under while supplies last.

This event is free of charge. Rain date is scheduled for Saturday, April 3.

For more information visit our web site at www.holyoke.org or call the Parks & Recreation Department at (413) 322-5620.

HCC virtual theater production honored for innovation

HOLYOKE – The Holyoke Community College Theater Department’s fall 2020 production, a live-streamed virtual play called “Fatal Fisticuffs,” won two awards at this year’s Kennedy Center American College Theater Festival.

The original work, written by HCC alumnus Tom Roche ‘16 of Holyoke, was recognized with a merit award for “Innovation in Digital Theater.” HCC student Nanette Mendieta of Holyoke won an award for excellence in stage management.

The awards were announced at the end of the KCACTF Region I festival, which was held virtually this year Jan. 25-31.

“Fatal Fisticuffs” was originally conceived as a traditional stage production that was meant also to be streamed over the internet and include real-time interactions with a virtual audience. But the COVID-19 pandemic forced the play off stage and completely into the digital realm.

“We were all trying to overcome the obstacles that were placed in front of us as we attempted to tell a story in a virtual world,” said director and HCC theater professor Tim Cochran. “We wanted to experiment and push our technical abilities as far as we could. Being recognized on a regional level is important because it provides affirmation that our work is respected by other colleges and it recognizes our merit as a program of excellence and innovation. This play was being produced at an incredibly difficult time for all of us and it became a light in the darkness for a lot of people.”

KCACTF Region I includes colleges and universities in northern New York and

all six New England states. Awards are based on the recommendations of respondents, who – usually – travel around the country to view college theater productions and offer critiques.

In the case of “Fatal Fisticuffs,” the production was performed live four times over three days in November 2020. During the show, 13 student- and alumni-actors performed in front of green screens in their homes with the live action patched together remotely with fight scenes pre-recorded on the stage of HCC’s Leslie Phillips Theater.

Based on their performances in “Fatal Fisticuffs,” student-actors Lauren Bailey, Miguel Perez and Brandon Rodriguez were also selected to perform in an acting competition during the festival.

“I think the students’ performances speak to their dedication, talent, and commitment,” said Kim Hicks, HCC dean of Arts & Humanities. “The same applies to our Theater faculty, who work collaboratively with students to create the fall and spring theater productions each year. Everyone involved in these shows puts in an incredible amount of work, including nights and weekends, and the work is evident in what we see on the stage and, now also, on the screen.”

The production featured a number of HCC theater alumni in key positions: Cory Missildine ‘13, a professional gamer and owner of the Easthampton-based livestreaming company Missildine Online, served as streaming coach; Mike Pray ‘08, a member of Tieline Theater, a Massachusetts theater collaborative, served as fight choreographer; and Roche, an award-winning playwright, wrote - and rewrote- the script.



HCC theater professor Tim Cochran, right, directs a fight sequence with alumni actor Mike Pray for the HCC production of “Fatal Fisticuffs,” as streaming coach and HCC alumnus Cory Missildine, left, records the action against a green screen.

Submitted photo

The characters in Roche’s play inhabit a bleak, degraded world where flowers no longer grow. They live alone in boxes, eat artificial food from plastic tubes, and may venture out once a year during an event known as The Opening. The rest of the time, their interactions are virtual, coming in the form of holograms, online chats and videogames. In the play “Fatal Fisticuffs” is a Mortal Kombat-style eSports competition that provides both a literal and metaphorical battlefield for the main character, Clayton Day, as portrayed by Miguel Perez.

“Tom worked on the script for a full year before learning that he needed to pivot and adapt the entire story into a virtual platform,” said Cochran. “This was an incredibly difficult undertaking but Tom stepped up to the challenge. All told, he

wrote more than 20 different versions of the script. His commitment to crafting a script that would hold together and tell a compelling story that was about our current plight is what put everything in motion for us.”

In the past nine years, the HCC Theater Department has won 12 KCACTF awards for individual acting, ensemble acting, dedication to a script, stage managing, and best original music, among others.

This spring, the HCC Theater Department will present another virtual production, “In These Times,” a dramatic collection of original stories from the HCC community about life during the COVID-19 pandemic. The show, directed by HCC theater professor Pat Sandoval, will be performed online April 14-17.

COVID-19 testing at Holyoke Community College extended through June

HOLYOKE – Even though infection rates have been dropping and vaccinations are becoming more readily available, free “Stop the Spread” COVID-19 testing at Holyoke Community College has been extended through June 2021, according to the Holyoke Board of Health.

Drive-through testing at HCC is conducted six days a week in parking lot H near the western entrance to the Donahue Building on the college’s main campus, 303 Homestead Ave.

Wait times for tests are not nearly as long as they used to be, according to site administrators, with only a handful of vehicles lined up at the busiest times.

HCC has been serving as a “Stop the Spread” drive-through testing site since last summer to help reduce the

spread of COVID-19.

Drivers are asked to enter the campus from Homestead Avenue, turn left onto the Campus Road and proceed to parking lot H. There will be signs and parking attendants on site to manage the flow of traffic.

The HCC testing site is open

Monday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday from 7 a.m. to 11 a.m.; and Tuesday and Thursday from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

Testing is free to all Massachusetts residents, and conducted on a first-come, first-serve basis. There are no appointments and no referral is necessary. Turnaround time for results is typically four days or fewer.

More information on all of the Stop the Spread test sites across the state can be found at: <https://www.mass.gov/info-details/stop-the-spread>

Please Note: Testing may sometimes be cancelled due to inclement weather. Be sure to visit the Holyoke Board of Health website for up-to-date information on cancellations:

<https://www.holyoke.org/departments/board-of-health>



The COVID-19 test site at Holyoke Community College will continue to offer drive-thru testing until the end of June.

Submitted photo

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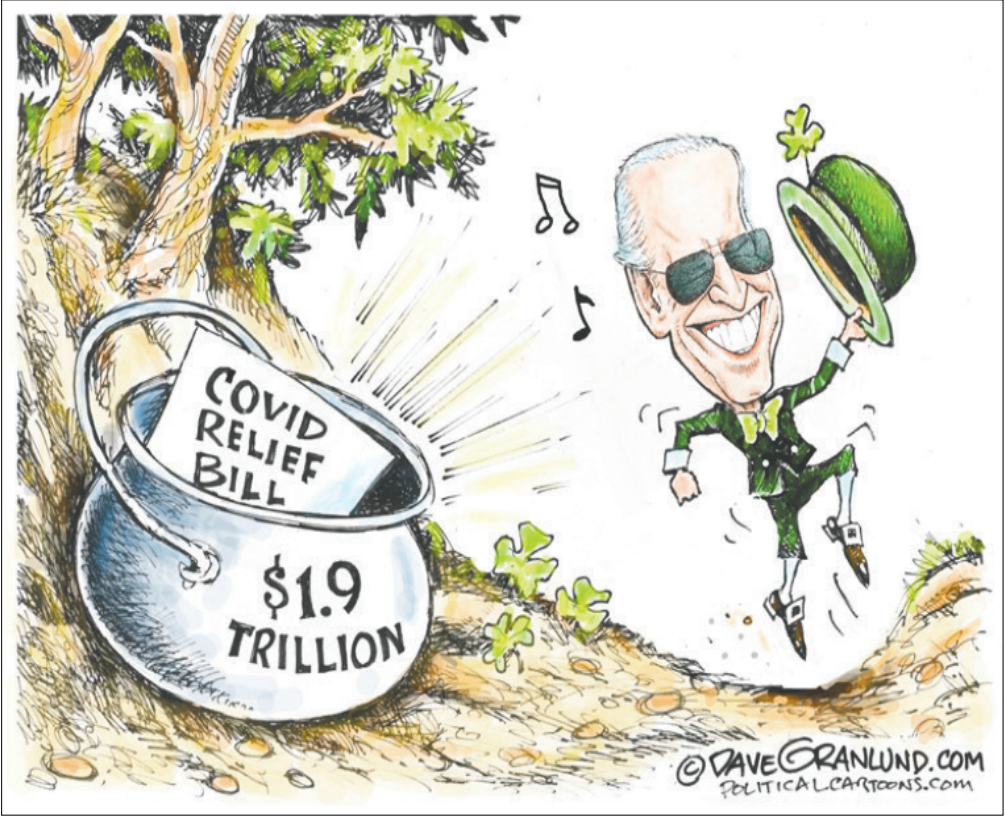
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www.sun.turley.com

Poetry Corner

“IRELAND – Martyrs, Saints and Scholars”

By Thomas J. Kennedy

When you fly into Ireland
You see a patchwork quilt
of stone and grass.
Went to beautiful Kerry, Ring of Kerry.
Ireland where great poets came from,
Along with literary giants...
Imaginative, creative visionaries
Who in Holyoke built the mills,
Built the canals as a dozen
Construction companies were here.
A gorgeous city, one of a kind they say.
People of strong Faith with fourteen
Churches then, past sacrifice
With kindness over flowing unselfishness.
Generosity flowing to strangers
Strangers no more... No more violence here.
No drugs, just happy good adults and children.
Only loved respect
for police who were your friend.
Teachers who cared deeply
and other who helped and cared.
Let's go back to that time.
When the quality of life was
100% better than today.
Where parents and religious gave us
love and direction.
And of course, genuine love
And hearts too – America and Ireland Forever.



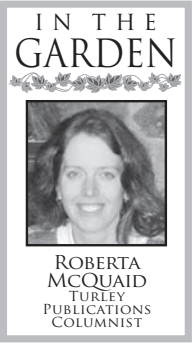
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Guest Column

The Garden Lady tackles heirloom tomatoes

Bill, a Maryland “trans-plant” who continues to read the Ware River News from his new home, had this question for the Garden Lady: “My son and family think I’m Mr. Green-jeans. For Christmas they gave me a pack of “exotic” tomato seeds. Unfortunately, there are some limitations to a 15-foot by 25-foot garden plot. I would like to start some nonetheless. Here is the list: Vintage Wine, Red Zebra, Chocolate Stripes and Black from Tula. All are from a seed company by the name of Urban Gardener in Indiana. Should I bother with these?”

Wow! You posed a wonderful question, Bill, and I am sure that the title of Mr. Green-jeans must have been earned somewhere down the line to warrant such a unique gift. I assumed that with names as poetic as these, you had been given a collection of heirloom tomato seeds. I was fascinated to learn, however, that while all of these varieties are open



pollinated, not all are heirloom. What is the difference?

When I consider what the definition of an heirloom is, images of grandma’s china or brooch come to mind, or in my personal case, babci’s water pitcher. To accurately put it into words, an heirloom is something that has been carefully passed down through the generations of a family. The same holds for heirloom plants. They aren’t here by chance, typically. Someone took the time to care for them and save the seeds of their best fruits or flowers so that they could be preserved and shared with others. To be able to save your own seed true to type, the plants need to be open pollinated, which heirlooms are. Here, pollination occurs naturally by bees, insects, animals, careful humans or the wind and the rain. Hybrids are a whole different story, whereby two plants were cross pollinated hoping to pass on specific genetic traits. The result, the third plant, is not stable. If its seeds are saved it is likely you will end

up with a fruit or flower that resembles one of the parent plants.

Saving the seeds of open pollinated tomatoes is the perfect first attempt for novice seed savers. They are self-pollinating and will produce offspring true to the parent plant without having to isolate them from other tomato varieties. Other plants can be tricky, say corn, for example, which needs to be kept separate from other corn by miles to produce seed that is true to type. My first experience with heirloom tomatoes was in my early years at Old Sturbridge Village, where we grew tiny Yellow Pear, for awhile the pinkish Brandywine, and now the uniquely lobed Large Red. I remember my co-worker analyzing which Large Red tomato matched the descriptions from the mid-19th century and choosing to save the seeds of the most authentic looking fruit, thereby passing on accurate genetic traits to future crops. Neat stuff!

It was fun to read that the scarlet color of most modern day tomatoes was actually a

See GARDEN, page 9

Does paying FICA tax now increase my benefit?

By Russell Gloor

Dear Rusty: If a person retires at age 66 and continues to work full time, Social Security taxes are still taken out of his weekly paycheck. Will this taxation for Social Security contribute more to the person’s Social Security benefit, even if already retired? Signed: Curious Retiree

Dear Curious Retiree: Since its inception in 1935, Social Security has been a “pay as you go” program, where contributions from those who are working are used to pay benefits to those who are collecting Social Security benefits. That remains true even if, after you start collecting Social Security, you work and pay payroll taxes into the system.

Those Social Security payroll taxes you are contributing now aren’t deposited into a personal account for you, they’re used to help pay benefits to all recipients. So, paying Social Security FICA payroll taxes after you start collecting benefits doesn’t affect your benefit payment. However, what might affect your benefit amount is if your current earnings from working are more than any of those in

SOCIAL SECURITY MATTERS

the 35 years used to originally compute your Social Security benefit when you filed.

When you apply for Social Security benefits, Social Security adjusts every year in your lifetime earnings record for inflation to bring those earlier earnings up to today’s dollar values. They then select the 35 highest-earning years over your entire lifetime, and from those 35 highest-earning years they develop your “Average Indexed Monthly Earnings” or AIME. Your AIME, in turn, is used to compute your Social Security benefit at your full retirement age, or FRA.

Social Security examines your earnings every year after your earnings for the previous year are reported to Social Security by the IRS. After your benefits have started, and if your current earnings are higher, Social Security will replace an earlier year’s earnings with your more recent earnings and recompute your benefit, resulting in a small benefit increase. I use the term “small” because it would represent only 1/35th of the average lifetime earnings used to compute your benefit.

A key thing to remember is that each of

your past year’s earnings, up until you are 60, are adjusted for inflation before computing your benefit amount. So, for example, \$25,000 earned in 1990 is worth more than \$60,000 in today’s dollars, and it is the inflation-adjusted amount that your current earnings would need to exceed increase in your benefit. I recently published an article on this topic which you may find helpful: www.socialsecurityreport.org/ask-rusty-does-paying-social-security-payroll-tax-increase-my-benefit/.

This article is intended for information purposes only and does not represent legal or financial guidance. It presents the opinions and interpretations of the AMAC Foundation’s staff, trained and accredited by the National Social Security Association. NSSA and the AMAC Foundation and its staff are not affiliated with or endorsed by the Social Security Administration or any other governmental entity.

To submit a question, visit our website (amacfoundation.org/programs/social-security-advisory) or email us at ssadviser@amacfoundation.org.

Russell Gloor is a Social Security advisor for AMAC.



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A Quote

OF NOTE

“Spring is nature’s way of saying, ‘Let’s Party!’”

Robin Williams

Letters to the Editor Policy

Letters to the Editor have a maximum of 350 words. We require writers to include their name, address and phone number in order for our office to authenticate authorship prior to publication. Addresses and phone numbers are not published.

Unsigned or anonymous letters will NOT be published.

We reserve the right to edit or withhold any submissions. Libelous, unsubstantiated allegations, personal attacks or defamation of character are not allowed.

Deadline for submissions is Wednesday at noon.

Please email (preferred) letters to thesun@turley.com. Mailed letters can be sent to The Sun, 24 Water Street, Palmer, MA 01069.

History Matters – March 16-31: American Revolution, OK and March Madness

History Matters is a biweekly feature courtesy of The Grateful American Book Prize, which is awarded to children’s books that emphasize the importance of American history.

By John Grimaldi and David Bruce Smith

By March 22, 1765, the British, short on funds to absorb the costs of their military presence in the colonies, unloaded the Stamp Act on the overburdened citizenry. Already, they were anteing up for the sugar tax on imported goods, paying an assessment for paper money, and a quartering fee for the housing and food costs of the Redcoats.

The Stamp Tax levied a charge on everything from newspapers, and pamphlets, to playing cards, but that offense kicked off outrage and defiance. According to History.com, “They raised the issue of taxation without representation and formed societies throughout the colonies to rally against the British gov-

ernment and nobles who sought to exploit the colonies as a source of revenue and raw materials. By October of that year, nine of the 13 colonies sent representatives to the Stamp Act Congress, at which the colonists drafted the ‘Declaration of Rights and Grievances,’ a document that railed against the autocratic policies of the mercantilist British empire.”

Although it was eventually rescinded, the public’s pique unified the colonists, suffused them with nationalism, and, slowly, activated America’s war of independence.

The Grateful American Book Prize recommends “The Stamp Act Crisis: Prologue to Revolution,” by Edmund S. Morgan and Helen M. Morgan.

Okay is created

Did you know that the United States does not have an official language? The Constitution does not specify one, nor is there a law which mandates the country to speak English; most Americans have accepted it as their “mother tongue,” but

adapting it in a very un-British way.

Take the distinctly American “okay,” which started out as an abbreviation: “OK.” It was common in the mid-19th century for younger, educated men and women to deliberately misspell words for amusement. For example, the slang for “all correct” became “oll korrekt” or OK, and was sopped up in the American lexicon when the editor of the March 23, 1839 edition of the Boston Morning Post, tagged it “OK” to denote that the copy was “all correct” or– “oll korrekt.”

Other newspapers replicated the abbreviation; it diffused all over the world and morphed into “the most frequently spoken word on the planet.”

The Grateful American Book Prize recommends “OK: The Improbable Story of America’s Greatest Word,” by Allan Metcalf.

March Madness

March Madness is overwhelming the nation. It has been that way since March 27, 1939, when the University of Oregon

beat Ohio State University 46–33 in the final game of the very first NCAA men’s basketball tournament.

If the Super Bowl causes the nation to stop and focus on football for one day, the annual NCAA basketball tournament holds the attention of the nation about three weeks. It starts mid-month when the “first four” –or first round games– are played, and last until the “final four” games culminate with the selection of the two teams that will compete in the championship.

In the beginning, eight schools were invited to participate; this year, 68 will face off in the men’s competition.

The inaugural women’s NCAA tournament of 1982 had representation from 32 schools; the 2021 line-up will be generated from 64.

The Grateful American Book Prize recommends “How March Became Madness: How the NCAA Tournament Became the Greatest Sporting Event in America,” by Eddie Einhorn and Ron Rapoport.

In My Backyard

By Ellenor Downer

A Barre resident called to report he has a northern mockingbird and a Carolina wren visiting his yard.

The northern mockingbird is the only mockingbird commonly found in North America. They are primarily permanent residents, but birds in the north may move south short distances during harsh weather. It is about eight to 10 inches long. It is a gray bird, with a long tail and white underbelly. It has a dark eye line and two white wing bars and dark wing tips and tail.

The female lays three to four and sometimes up to six greenish to blue gray eggs with brown spots. They build the nest in dense shrub or tree, usually about three to 10 feet above the ground. The male builds most of the foundation and the female puts in the lining. The nest has a bulky foundation of twigs, supporting an open of weeds, grass, leaves lined with fine material such as rootlets, moss, animal hair or plant down. The female incubates the eggs, but both parents feed the young. The young leave the nest about 12 days after hatching. Mockingbirds have two to three broods per year.

Mockingbirds feed mainly on insects and berries. It feeds mainly on insects in late spring and summer and relies on berries and fruit in fall and winter.

The mockingbird was often captured for sale as a pet from the late 1700s to the early 1900s. As a result, it became scarce along much of the northern edge of its range. After the stopping of the cage bird trade, mockingbirds became common once again. The planting of multiflora rose, also known as living fence, was partly responsible for its spread in the northeast as mockingbirds liked the berries and used it for nesting sites.

Belchertown bluebirds

A Belchertown woman emailed about bluebirds. She said, “Just this winter, we have counted as many as nine bluebirds at once around our feeder and have them in our yard, gardens and woods at all times of the year.” Several people are reporting seeing bluebirds. They are always a welcome sight and in the sunlight, the blue is so vivid.

Carolina wren

I also have a Carolina wren, which

comes to my feeders regularly. Early this week, it was eating seeds off the ground. A bluejay landed on the ground near it. Often, the smaller birds leave when the bluejays come, but not this wren. It held its ground and the bluejay did not chase it away.

Bird watching

My cat, Rocky, likes to the watch the birds and squirrels at the feeders. If I ask him if he wants to watch the birds,

he reaches up for me to pick him up and bring him to the window. This is a morning ritual with us. Today, there was a red squirrel under the tray feeder. He especially likes to watch the juncos.

People may report a bird sighting or bird related experience by calling me at 413-967-3505, leaving a message at extension 100, emailing mybackyard88@aol.com or edowner@turley.com or mailing to Barre Gazette, P.O. Box 448, Barre, MA 01005.

MAYOR, from page 1

departs more than six months before the election. But an additional election in the city this year would be costly due to the ongoing pandemic. The cities of Boston and Lawrence are seeking similar petitions. Boston’s mayor, Marty Walsh, is set to join President Joe Biden’s cabinet.

McGee announced early this week he is not able to serve as acting more for the duration of Morse’s term. He said his own work commitments as well as potential conflicts of interests were reasons he was not going to serve as acting mayor, but did say he was willing to take on the role for a brief period of time. He called on other councilors to potentially serve as acting mayor.

One councilor with experience doing this is Joseph McGiverin, an at-large councilor who was formally the council president. He took on the role when a mayor in 1990’s, Martin Dunn, left the seat to join the Massachusetts State Senate.

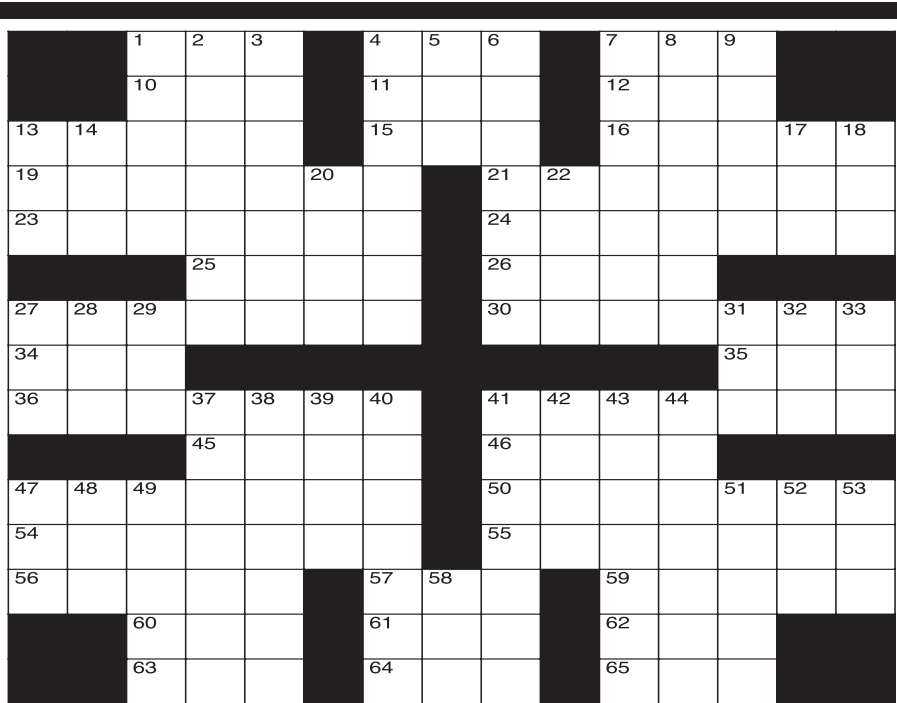
The biggest problem with the acting mayor issue is beyond McGee, the current council president, there are no provisions for successors beyond that position. Other cities and towns utilize other

elected positions in the line of succession, such as a clerk or treasurer, or other councilors. The city council in Holyoke also does not have a vice president.

At their regular meeting on Tuesday night, the city council did agree to file the home rule legislation regarding the election, but does not have a decision on who will serve as acting mayor. Councilors did agree Rebecca Lisi as well as potential candidate Mike Sullivan should not serve in the capacity because it would give them unfair advantages in their quest for the mayor’s office.

Lisi announced her candidacy in January. School committee member Devin Sheehan has also announced a run. Sullivan has indicated he could run for the seat, but has not formally announced himself as a candidate.

The incoming acting mayor will have to get right to work with a number of issues facing the city. There are some controversies growing within the police department since a viral video surfaced last week (see related story), the budget season has started, the school district is still in state control, and the city has just been informed it will receive \$31 in federal funding from the recently-passed American Rescue Plan.



CLUES ACROSS

- 1. ___ fi: popular genre
- 4. Curved shape
- 7. Defunct airline
- 10. Beverage receptacle
- 11. Corporate bigwig
- 12. Belong to he
- 13. They cover cuts
- 15. Cost per mille
- 16. Walk into
- 19. Power-producing machine
- 21. Part of one’s character perceived by others
- 23. Emotionally appealed to
- 24. Protected
- 25. Wrestling icon Okerlund
- 26. Thailand’s former name
- 27. Muscle weaknesses
- 30. Chooses

CLUES DOWN

- 34. American film studio
- 35. Expression of satisfaction
- 36. Mythical winged horse
- 41. Ballplayers
- 45. Edible seaweed
- 46. Chinese politician
- 47. Tested for fertility
- 50. Glove worn with medieval armor
- 54. Basaltic lavas
- 55. Small shoaling fish
- 56. Surrendered
- 57. Taxi
- 59. Potato part
- 60. Female sheep
- 61. Trouble or difficulty
- 62. Put into service
- 63. Soviet Socialist Republic
- 64. 17th letter of Greek alphabet
- 65. Type of student

CLUES DOWN

- 1. Frighten
- 2. Partner to corned beef
- 3. Parts
- 4. Agrees to a demand
- 5. Elected official
- 6. Navigator’s tool
- 7. Relating to heat
- 8. Attractive
- 9. Wealthy US merchant
- 13. Engine additive
- 14. A passage with access only at one end
- 17. Midway between northeast and east
- 18. Cool!
- 20. Brazilian NBAer
- 22. NW Pennsylvania city
- 27. Young dog
- 28. Mimic
- 29. Large truck
- 31. The NFL’s Newton

- 32. One and only
- 33. Diego, Francisco, Anselmo
- 37. Julie __, actress
- 38. More nourishing
- 39. Compound
- 40. A small carrier attached to the side of a motorcycle
- 41. Object of fear or alarm
- 42. __ Ladd, actor
- 43. Sacred place
- 44. A way to express enjoyment
- 47. Trigonometric function
- 48. A team’s best pitcher
- 49. Intersecting points
- 51. Roundishly shaped
- 52. Adam’s partner
- 53. God of battle (Scandinavian)
- 58. Human hormone

CROSSWORD ANSWER on page 9



The Holyoke/South Hadley Colleen Court and members of the St. Patrick's Committee of made the most of their appearance at the Big E last Saturday.



Dozens of enthusiastic residents participated in the reverse car parade that occurred last Saturday in West Springfield.



- ◆ **La Cucina di Hampden House**
 1 Allen Street, Hampden, MA
413-566-8324
www.lacucinahampden.com
 CURRENT HOURS: Mon-Thurs 3-8pm;
 Sat 2-9pm; Sun 2-8pm
 Lounge open & pizza available 7 days
- ◆ **Route 20 Bar & Grille**
 2341 Boston Road (The Wilbraham Shops)
 Wilbraham, MA
413-279-2020
www.route20barandgrille.com
 CURRENT HOURS: Lunch: Thurs-Sat starting at
 11:30am; Dinner: Tues-Thurs 4-9pm;
 Fri & Sat 4-10pm; Sunday 11:30am-7:00pm;
 Sunday Brunch 11:30am-2:30pm
- ◆ **Donovan's Irish Pub**
 Eastfield Mall, 1655 Boston Road, Springfield, MA
413-543-0791
www.donovanspub.com
 CURRENT HOURS: Thurs-Sat 11am-9pm;
 Sun 9am-7pm; Sunday breakfast 9am - noon
- ◆ **Venice Pizza & Grill**
 2341 Boston Road, The Wilbraham Shops
 Wilbraham, MA
413-540-8080
www.venicepizzagrill.com
 OPEN: Tues-Thurs 10:45am-9:30pm
 Fri & Sat 10:45am -10pm; Sun 11am-9pm
 Closed Monday



Members of the Holyoke/South Hadley Colleen Court wave to drivers at the Big E on March 13.

COLLEENS, from page 1

McDermott is joined on the Colleen Court by Patricia Hardon and Natalie Mayko of Holyoke and Emily Couture and Hailey Dusseault of South Hadley.

Haradon acknowledged that the past year has been full of missed opportunities but took great pride in representing Holyoke and her fellow Colleens at the Big E last Saturday.

"Maybe we're setting a precedent. COVID is a new time to discover new things. We can't see each other face-to-face but we can still be giving and loving," said Haradon. "It's strange because the last time we were all together was a year ago today. It's nice to celebrate something this year."

Each attendee, who remained inside his or her vehicle for the entirety of the reverse car parade, was asked to donate a canned good to the fairgrounds on March 13.

The collection of food items will ultimately be split and distributed amongst the participating communities,

where they'll be given to individuals battling food insecurity.

For Haradon, the food collection was one of the day's best highlights.

"It's so beautiful; I don't know why we don't have this every year," she said. "It's nice to see that they don't just get this reverse parade, but they're also giving at the same time. It's really a feel-good event."

Couture, and her mother, stopped at a grocery store prior to arriving at the Big E to pick up a canned food item. The spirit of giving that defined the day was symbolic of the Colleens' mission.

When all is said and done, few things go as planned, a lesson learned by the Colleen Court. For each Colleen, however, the memories made last Saturday will last far longer than the pandemic.

"We've been waiting a while for this; it's nice to be out here and see the people go by," said Couture. "I was afraid that we weren't going to be able to do this because last year everything just got cancelled, which was really disappointing. It's great to not have that happen here."

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USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS CENTER CUT PORK LOIN **\$1⁸⁸** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH PORK SPARE RIB TWIN PAK..... **\$2⁷²** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONE-IN PORK LOIN RIB END or LOIN END ROAST..... **\$1⁴⁹** lb

USDA INSP. **SLICED IN OUR DELI** ROAST BEEF **\$5⁵⁵** lb

USDA INSP. FROZEN RED SNAPPER WHOLE **\$4⁹⁹** lb

USDA INSP. FROZEN 2 LB BAG MOROCCAN SARDINES.... **\$1⁹⁹** ea

USDA INSP. FROZEN GREAT AMERICAN 1 LB BAG SEAFOOD COMBINATION **\$2⁹⁹** ea

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF TOP SIRLOIN SPOON ROAST or STEAKS **\$3⁹³** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS BEEF CHUCK ROAST or STEAKS **\$3⁹⁹** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH BONELESS VEAL CUTLETS **\$7⁷⁷** lb

CUSTOMER PICK OF THE WEEK USDA INSP. FRESH AMERICAN LAMB CHOPS LOIN.. **\$7⁷⁷** lb

USDA INSP. FROZEN BONELESS & SKINLESS CHICKEN TENDERLOIN TRAY PAK **\$1⁴⁴** lb

USDA INSP. FROZEN VARIETY PAK CUT-UP CHICKEN 15 LB BOX ... **66¢** lb

USDA INSP. FRESH CHICKEN DRUMSTICKS 10 LB BAG **69¢** lb

USDA INSP. KAYEM OLD TYME NATURAL CASING HOT DOGS 2 1/2 LB BOX **\$9⁹⁹** lb

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KNIGHTS PREPARE FOR SPRING GRIDIRON



The Holyoke High School football team finally took the fields this month after seeing the season delayed from the fall. Holyoke is set to open up the season this weekend and will play a six-week campaign. Clockwise from top Holyoke football works out during practice this week. Holyoke football works out during practice this week. Linemen work on their blocking skills. Martin Phillips attempts a throw. The football team works on running and handoff drills.

Photos by David Henry www.sweetdogphotos.com



Quabbin Valley baseball set to return in 2021

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

SOUTH HADLEY – Last year, COVID-19 concerns caused the cancellation of several adult recreational baseball leagues.

With increasing vaccinations and protocols in place, the Quabbin Valley Baseball

League, a league for players 28 and over, will return with a full season beginning at the end of April.

League President Eric Castonguay, who also serves as the athletic director at South Hadley High School, held a league-wide meeting on Sunday morning via Zoom to go over changes that will be in place to

play the 2021 season and discuss the status of the six teams for the 2021 season.

The six-team league is a strictly Sunday, 10 a.m. league. All games are played at that time for 15 weeks beginning April 25 and ended in mid-August. There are Sundays off for

See BASEBALL, page 8



The Quabbin Valley Baseball League is set to return this season. Sign-ups for the league are ongoing and the league is in need of new players for the 2021 season.

Submitted photos



Sectional tournament returns in spring season

By Gregory A. Scibelli
gscibelli@turley.com

REGION – After a year without any type of high school tournaments due to the COVID-19 restrictions in place, a spring tournament is scheduled to take place in 2021.

As of now, it is believed that the Massachusetts Interscholastic Athletic Association will prepare for the traditional three-season format, and that traditional format will include a change to a statewide tournament and the elimination of the sectional tournament.

The 2020-2021 school was set to be the last year for the sectional tournaments after a vote last year to change the format of the tournament. Now the spring will feature sectional tournaments only following a recent vote

by the MIAA.

There was an emphasis to try to bring back a tournament for the spring season after players missed out on an entire season last year and the MIAA did not want that to happen two years in a row.

The entire spring season was delayed multiple times before Gov. Charlie Baker closed down schools in late April for the remainder of the school year. The closure effectively cancelled the sport season as it was deemed not safe to play.

The MIAA thus far has gone with a four-season format, including a bubble or “wedge” season to fit sports in that were not played in the first two seasons. Known as Fall 2, a variety of sports are being played right now, though football is the primary

See TOURNAMENT, page 8

Details for Basketball 2020 Hall induction released

SPRINGFIELD – The Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame announced today its newly established schedule of events surrounding the Enshrinement of the highly anticipated Class of 2020. Due to the global pandemic, the event was postponed from August 2020 to May 14-16, 2021. To allow for proper physical distancing and additional COVID-19 safety protocols, the Hall of Fame has elected to relocate Enshrinement for one year from Springfield, Mass. to an environmentally controlled venue at Mohegan Sun in Uncasville, Conn with all events being held in one single site.

“There has been great interest surrounding the Class of 2020 as potentially one of our most historic classes to date,” said John L. Doleva, President and CEO of the Naismith Memorial Basketball Hall of Fame. “We are grateful to our longtime marketing partner Mohegan Sun for providing a beautiful venue where we can properly honor

these iconic figures in basketball while accounting for the health and safety of our attendees. Coinciding with the reveal of our multi-million-dollar museum renovations, we couldn’t be more excited to celebrate the Class of 2020.”

The event schedule for the Class of 2020 Enshrinement Weekend is as follows (all times eastern*):

*Event start times are subject to change

Friday, May 14

2 p.m. - Class of 2020 Press Conference

5 p.m. - Hall of Fame Awards Celebration and Gala

Saturday, May 15

5 p.m. - Hall of Fame Enshrinement Ceremony

Sunday, May 16

1 p.m. - Hall of Fame Ribbon Cutting

(\$24 million dollar renovation

including Jerry Colangelo Court of Dreams and Museum Galleries)

The Hall of Fame Awards Celebration and Gala will recognize Hall of Fame Award winners from 2020 including John W. Bunn Lifetime Achievement recipient Tim Nugent, Curt Gowdy Media Award recipients Michael Wilbon, Mike Breen, Jim Gray and TNT’s Inside the NBA, as well as Mannie Jackson Human Spirit Award recipients Wayne Embry, George Raveling and Bill Russell.

The highly anticipated Class of 2020 includes: 18-time NBA All-Star and five-time NBA champion Kobe Bryant, 15-time NBA All-Star and three-time NBA Finals MVP Tim Duncan, 15-time NBA All-Star and nine-time NBA All-Defensive First Team selection Kevin Garnett, four-time National Coach of the Year Eddie Sutton, two-time NBA Champion coach Rudy Tomjanovich, 10-time WNBA All-Star and four-time Olympic gold medalist Tamika

Catchings, three-time NCAA National Championship Coach of Baylor Kim Mulkey, five-time Division II National Coach of the Year Barbara Stevens and longtime FIBA executive Patrick Baumann.

A limited number of VIP Ticket Packages are available at this time. Any remaining single event tickets will be available for purchase Monday, March 15. For further information, a listing of COVID-19 protocols surrounding this event and purchasing options. visit www.hoophall.com/Enshrinement/Tickets.

As the health and safety of the Hall of Famers, fans and staff is of the utmost importance, the Basketball Hall of Fame will continue to work with the Mohegan Tribal Health Department to monitor the COVID-19 situation closely in the coming months and provide updates as needed. For more information and the latest updates, visit www.hoophall.com/Enshrinement or follow @hoophall on Twitter and Instagram.

Westfield State University announces return to sports action

WESTFIELD – Westfield State University will begin play for spring sports later this month, the school announced last week in conjunction with the Council of Presidents of the Massachusetts State Collegiate Athletic Conference.

“A spring season for our student athletes is very welcome news at Westfield State, where athletics are integral to our campus culture and student experience,” said Interim President Roy H. Saigo, PhD. “Our Westfield State Owls—the 2020 Smith Cup recipients—will be a force as safe and competitive intercollegiate play resumes for our teams.”

The Owls plan to hold intercollegiate competition in men’s and women’s track and field, women’s lacrosse, baseball, softball and men’s golf this spring.

“We are tremendously excited

that our student-athletes will have the chance to return to the field of play,” said Westfield State Athletics director Dick Lenfest.

The pandemic cut seasons short exactly one year ago today, when the NCAA announced it was cancelling championships competition for 2020 due to the COVID-19 coronavirus pandemic.

“It’s been a long year,” said Lenfest, who has also been tasked with managing the school’s coronavirus testing for the past nine months. “While all of our athletes have experienced disappointment as the pandemic has affected both the ability to conduct competitions and even practices, the announcement today is a win for Owls athletics. By getting back to the field of play this spring the athletes who had their seasons cut short a year ago will be the first ones to get

back on the field, providing a sense of equity as it appears that no athlete or team would miss more than one season of competition due to the pandemic.”

“It’s important for our student-athletes, coaches and staff to stay vigilant as we return to play,” said Lenfest. “The university is providing COVID testing each week before the contests, which gives us the opportunity to play inter-collegiate games, but both on and off the field, while traveling, and even in the residence halls and apartments, it is important to wear your mask, wash and sanitize your hands frequently, and maintain safe social distancing protocols.”

Per the decision of the MASCAC Council of Presidents, no spectators will be permitted at spring 2021 sport contests. Westfield State athletics plans to live video stream all of its home contests

via WestfieldStateOwls.com, and the MASCAC.TV app for Roku and Apple TV streaming, and live stats for the games are also provided.

The spring sport schedules have been altered in conjunction with the presidents’ announcement. Updated schedules for the Owls’ spring sports teams will be posted shortly on WestfieldStateOwls.com. If weather or pandemic conditions force changes as the seasons progress, the online schedules are the first place to be updated accordingly.

Westfield’s traditional fall and winter sports teams will continue to have practice opportunities throughout the remainder of the spring semester, with plans to return to full completion in fall of 2021 pending public health conditions.

BASEBALL, from page 7

the Memorial Day and Fourth of July holiday.

The league was going to attempt a shortened season last year when Massachusetts went through the initial stages of its re-opening plan, but a few teams dropped out prior to the beginning, effectively cancelling the entire season.

This year, all six teams are back and on board, but there is a need for some new blood into the league.

The league is in need of about 25 players to fill out the rosters for this year. There are just a few weeks remaining before the league’s draft.

Managers and members of the league’s board discussed the COVID-19 protocols and field arrangements for the 2021 season.

Due to the restrictions in place in Easthampton, teams will only have limited games at Daley Field at Nonotuck Park. Castonguay announced the remainder of games would be played at South Hadley High School and the Beachgrounds Park, which is also in South Hadley. Booster Field is not available for the league, Castonguay said. Three games are typically played each Sunday. Each team plays their five opponents three times each. Every team makes the playoffs with a football-style format where the lower four seeds play in the first week of the playoffs and the winners meeting the top two seeds in the semifinals.

Castonguay explained while the gameplay itself will be largely the same, a number of “habits” will need to be changed in order for the league to safely be played.

First, like many sports, masks are required to be worn while involved in the game or on the benches. Benches will need to be spread out in order to allow for social distancing. Mask breaks can take place up the foul lines with proper distance from all players, Castonguay said.

Last summer, umpires who did high school and adult baseball in other leagues called balls and strikes from behind the pitcher’s mound. Castonguay said umpires voted recently to have an umpire back behind the plate.

Other habits being curtailed for the start of the season are the acts of spitting, spitting pumpkin or sunflower seeds, and the removal of all garbage from playing fields.

“Fields are not providing garbage cans,” said Castonguay. “So whatever we bring in, we have to take with us.”

The league may issue trash bags to teams so trash can be bagged and taken away by the players after games.

The modifications will be in place for the start of the season, but could change as the season goes on depending on the pace of vaccinations and when the governor lifts various restrictions.

The cost to play in the league this season is \$192.51 and registration can be found at www.quabbinvalleybaseball.org. The league draft is set for April 11 at 10 a.m. at a location to be determined.



Sign-ups available for Relics softball

LUDLOW – The Western Mass Relics has opened registration for the 2021 Senior Softball Season. The Silver Division (age 50 to 64) has filled 36 of the 112 spots and the Gold Division (65-and-up) has filled 32

of the 96 spots. The registrations are accepted on a first come first serve basis. All our games are played at the Fish & Game in Ludlow. For further information or to register go to <http://www.westernmassrelics.org>.

Hampshire association seeking umpires

REGION – The Hampshire Franklin Baseball Umpire Association (HFBUA) is planning to conduct classes for the 2021 baseball season following all recommended COVID-19 protocols including the possibility of

on-line instruction. If you are interested in umpiring baseball or obtaining further information regarding the upcoming classes please contact Roger Booth - Secretary/Treasurer of the HFBUA via email at quilthunter@comcast.net.

TOURNAMENT, from page 7

sport being played over the next several weeks. But Belchertown and Monson are also playing basketball. South Hadley and Southwick are among teams playing girls volleyball. Indoor track is also being played. However, there will be no tournaments played during the Fall 2 season, which is set to conclude at the end of April.

The spring season, which usually begins in mid-March and ends in mid-June, will go from the beginning of May with a cut-off of July 3 to finish the season.

In order to limit travel, the MIAA did not want to have the state tournament, and have decided sectional tournaments can take place. As of now, the tournament is set to take place at home fields of higher seeds, with no neutral

sites being used. However, with the vaccination effort accelerating, restrictions could lift as the next two months progress, allowing high school sports a bit more freedom.

Spring sports to be played include baseball, softball, boys lacrosse, girls lacrosse, boys tennis, girls tennis, boys track, girls track, and boys volleyball. Wrestling is also scheduled to take place this spring.

One other caveat to the spring modifications is that teams eliminated from postseason play, can play games against other non-qualifiers through the end of the spring season.

Spring teams are used to a rushed season due to the typical unpredictable end to the winter and conditions on fields. However, with the spring sports beginning in May, field conditions should be ideal to begin games as soon as teams are ready.

City of Holyoke
536 Dwight Street #15
Holyoke, MA 01040-5078
(413)-322-5650
Invitation to Bid 2021-007
Electrical Upgrades
Wistariahurst Museum
The City of Holyoke is seeking sealed bids for electrical upgrades at the Wistariahurst Museum.
Bids will be received by the Chief Procurement Officer, Room 15, Holyoke City Hall, Holyoke, MA 01040 **until 2:00 PM on 4/14/21** at which time bids will be publicly opened and read.
Documents will be available by email request after 10:00 AM on 3/24/21 at: peirent@holyoke.org.
The City of Holyoke reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids.
03/19/2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-7758
Docket No. HD17P1997EA
Estate of:
Trevor Ryan Wadleigh
Also known as:
Trevor Wadleigh
Date of Death: 01/02/2017
CITATION ON
PETITION FOR
ORDER OF
COMPLETE SETTLEMENT
A Petition for Order of Complete Settlement has been filed by **Joseph P Dusel of Ludlow, MA** requesting that the court enter a formal Decree of Complete Settlement including the allowance of a final account, a determination of heirs at law, the allowance of a proposed distribution and other such relief as may be requested in the Petition.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
You have the right to obtain a copy of the Petition from the Petitioner or at the court. You have a right to object to this proceeding. To do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance and objection at this court before: **10:00 a.m. on the return day of 04/09/2021.**

This is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline by which you must file a written appearance and objection if you object to this proceeding. If you fail to file a timely written appearance and objection followed by an affidavit of objections within thirty (30) days of the return day, action may be taken without further notice to you.
WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 09, 2021
Rosemary A Saccomani
Register of Probate
03/19/2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Hampden Probate and Family Court
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
Docket No. HD21P0453GD
In the matter of:
Jeffrey Torres
Of: Holyoke, MA
RESPONDENT
Alleged Incapacitated Person
CITATION GIVING
NOTICE OF PETITION
FOR APPOINTMENT OF
GUARDIAN FOR
INCAPACITATED PERSON
PURSUANT TO
G.L. c. 190B, §5-304
To the named Respondent and all other interested persons, a petition has been filed by **Vibra Hospital of W Mass** of Springfield, MA in the above captioned matter alleging that **Jeffrey Torres** is in need of a Guardian and requesting that some suitable person be appointed as Guardian to serve **Without Surety** on the bond.
The petition asks the court to determine that the Respondent is incapacitated, that the appointment of a Guardian is necessary, and that the proposed Guardian is appropriate. The petition is on file with this court and may contain a request for certain specific authority.
You have the right to object to this proceeding. If you wish to do so, you or your attorney must file a written appearance at this court on or before **10:00 A.M. on the return date of 04/14/2021.**

This day is NOT a hearing date, but a deadline date by which you have to file the written appearance if you object to the petition. If you fail to file the written appearance by the return date, action may be taken in this matter without further notice to you. In addition to filing the written appearance, you or your attorney must file a written affidavit stating the specific facts and grounds of your objection within 30 days after the return date.
IMPORTANT NOTICE
The outcome of this proceeding may limit or completely take away the above-named person's right to make decisions about personal affairs or financial affairs or both. The above-named person has the right to ask for a lawyer. Anyone may make this request on behalf of the above-named person. If the above-named person cannot afford a lawyer, one may be appointed at State expense.
WITNESS, Hon. **Barbara M Hyland**, First Justice of this Court.
Date: March 10, 2021
Rosemary A. Saccomani
Register of Probate
03/19/2021

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE
The Holyoke Stormwater Authority will hold a Public Hearing on **Monday, March 29, 2021 at 5:30 p.m.** to hear, pursuant to Section 38.0 of the Holyoke Ordinance, an application for a Stormwater Permit by Holyoke Water Works to construct a new water tank including access drive, subsurface utility infrastructure and stormwater management features, repave a parking lot and install stormwater management facilities on Apremont Highway, known as parcels 193-00-001.
Please be advised that the hearing will be held remotely via Zoom, Members of the public can access the meeting by calling a telephone number and entering the meeting ID and password. This information will be posted on the City's meeting website in advance of the meeting at www.holyoke.org/calendar-list/

A copy of the application and site plan may be obtained electronically by sending an email to the Holyoke City Engineer at peirent@holyoke.org or by appointment requested through this same email address.
STORMWATER AUTHORITY:
David Moore, Chairman
03/19/2021

LEGAL NOTICE
CITY OF HOLYOKE
GAS & ELECTRIC
DEPARTMENT
REBID - PURCHASE OF
NEW BACKHOE LOADER
Sealed bids for furnishing the above will be received by Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept. until **2:30 p.m. April 2, 2021** at the office of the Manager, 99 Suffolk St., Holyoke, MA 01040, at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read.
Additional information may be obtained from:
Chi Wong
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.
99 Suffolk St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
(413) 536-9308
cwong@hged.com
The right is hereby reserved to reject any or all bids, or to accept any bid that in the opinion of the Manager may be for the best interest of the City of Holyoke.
Please mark sealed envelopes **"Rebid - Bid for Purchase of New Backhoe Loader"** and address them to: **James M. Lavelle, Manager**
Holyoke Gas & Electric Dept.
99 Suffolk St.
Holyoke, MA 01040
03/19/2021

Commonwealth of Massachusetts
The Trial Court
Probate and Family Court
Hampden Division
50 State Street
Springfield, MA 01103
(413)748-8600
Docket No. HD21P0441EA
Estate of:
Janet E. Keighley
Date of Death:
January 10, 2021
INFORMAL PROBATE
PUBLICATION NOTICE
To all persons interested in the above captioned estate, by Petition of Petitioner

Karen E. Arble of Holyoke, MA a Will has been admitted to informal probate.
Karen E. Arble of Holyoke, MA has been informally appointed as the Personal Representative of the estate to serve **without surety** on the bond.
The estate is being administered under informal procedure by the Personal Representative under the Massachusetts Uniform Probate Code without supervision by the Court. Inventory and accounts are not required to be filed with the Court, but interested parties are entitled to notice regarding the administration from the Personal Representative and can petition the Court in any matter relating to the estate, including distribution of assets and expenses of administration. Interested parties are entitled to petition the Court to institute formal proceedings and to obtain orders terminating or restricting the powers of Personal Representatives appointed under informal procedure. A copy of the Petition and Will, if any, can be obtained from the Petitioner.
03/19/2021

City of Holyoke
536 Dwight Street #15
Holyoke, MA 01040-5078
(413)-322-5650
Invitation to Bid 2021-006
Electrical Maintenance
The City of Holyoke is seeking sealed bids for electrical maintenance for City and School buildings.
Bids will be received by the Chief Procurement Officer, Room 15, Holyoke City Hall, Holyoke, MA 01040 **until 2:00 PM on 4/27/21** at which time bids will be publicly opened and read.
Documents will be available by email request after 10:00 AM on 3/24/21 at: belangerl@holyoke.org and or colond@holyoke.org.
The City of Holyoke reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids.
03/19/2021

Notice of Public Hearing
The DGR Committee of the Holyoke City Council will hold a public hearing on **Monday,**

March 29, 2021 at 6:30pm to hear a Special Permit Application of Anthony W Dominguez for Nonconforming structures, other than single and two family structures per section 4.7.3 of the Holyoke Zoning Ordinance to change property/building from non-conforming to conforming for personal use of garage as a storage area and for vehicle at 50 Upland Rd (167-00-075)
Meeting will take place remotely and can be accessed via www.zoom.us Meeting ID: 835 0197 1274 Meeting Passcode: 166528 or by call in at 1 (929)205-6099 with same Meeting ID and Passcode.
Written public comment can be submitted to publiccomment@holyoke.org. For information on this application please contact City Council Admin. Assistant Jeffery Anderson-Burgos at anderson-burgosj@holyoke.org or by phone at (413) 322-5525
DGR Chair: David Bartley
03/12, 03/19/2021

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
#001-6393
HOLYOKE
BOYS & GIRLS CLUB
(70 Nick Cosmos Way)
Sealed proposals for the replacement of existing dual fuel heating boiler and domestic water heater with new electrical and control support as necessary will be received by the President/CEO, 70 Nick Cosmos Way, Holyoke, MA up to **3/31/21 at 10:00 AM** in which bids will be publicly opened.
Plans will be available digitally by request to both rwilloughby@rwhall.com & mbianchini@rwhall.com.
A pre-bid walk thru will be held on site Tuesday, March 23, 2021 at 10:00 AM.
This project is Federally funded. In order to be eligible for federal funds, respondents must have a valid DUNS number and be registered in the System for Award Management (sam.gov).
The work to be performed is subject to requirements of Section 3 of the Housing and Urban Development Act of 1968.
03/19, 03/25/2021

GARDEN, from page 4

gene mutation that breeders discovered and bred into fruits so that they would ripen evenly. Many champions of the heirloom tomato movement argue that this was at the expense of flavor. So Bill, you have a unique opportunity to experience Vintage Wine, a whopper of a tomato, with some of the pink, striped golden fruits weighing over a pound.
Also the oh so sweet Russian heirloom Black from Tula, another large fruit that is deep purple with green shoulders sometimes described as "the ugliest, most delicious tomato ever grown." The more recent chance discovery, Red Zebra, is a beautiful cherry-red with yellow-orange stripes and a sweet, yet tart tomato flavor. How about Chocolate

Stripe, a three to four-inch, exceptionally yummy mahogany colored tomato with olive striping that produces over a long period, taking third place winner for taste at the annual TomatoFest.
So yes, bother with these, enjoy complexities of flavor not found in the average red tomato and save the seed for those you like. I'd love to hear all about it!
Roberta McQuaid graduated from the Stockbridge School of Agriculture at the University of Massachusetts. For the last 28 years, she has held the position of staff horticulturalist at Old Sturbridge Village. She enjoys growing food as well as flowers. Have a question for her? Email it to ekennedy@turley.com with "Gardening Question" in the subject line.

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The Sun

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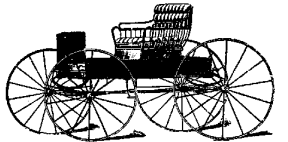
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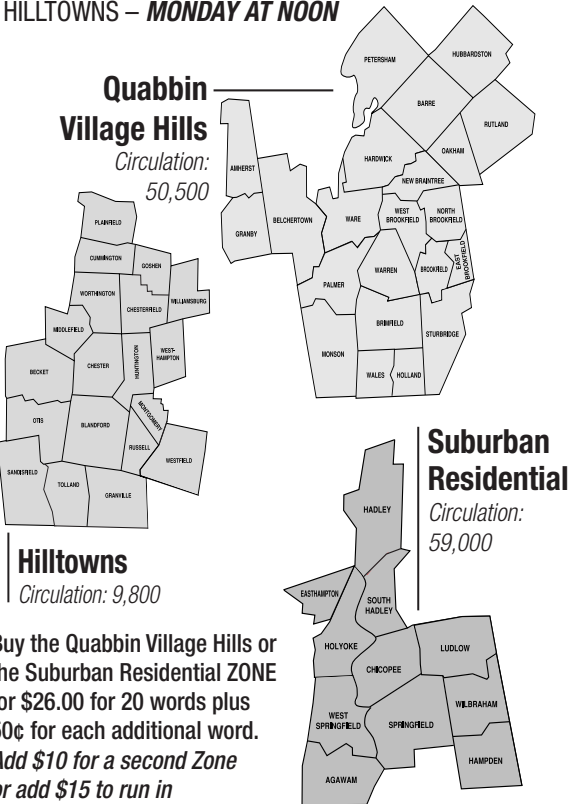
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District Attorney’s office hosts stalking seminar

REGION – A Virtual training aimed at increasing reporting and charging of the crime of stalking drew 200 people last week.

An estimated 8% of women and 2% of men have been stalked at some time in their life; it’s an alarming crime that poses difficult challenges to local law enforcement.

“Stalking is homicide in slow motion,” said Dana Fleitman, associate advisor of Aequitas Stalking Prevention, Awareness and Resource Center in Washington DC. According to Fleitman, stalking often co-occurs with physical assault and sexual violence, including rape.

Some 20% of stalkers use weapons to threaten or harm victims and 76% of intimate partner femicides included stalking in the year leading up to the homicide, Fleitman said.

Fleitman was the main speak-

er at a virtual training sponsored by the Northwestern District Attorney’s Office last week. About 200 area law enforcement, court staff and community advocates attended the training titled, “Intimate Partner Violence & the Crime of Stalking.”

In the Northwestern District of Franklin and Hampshire counties and the town of Athol, there have been 23 intimate partner violence related homicides since 1984, most recently one in 2017 and one in 2019.

The primary goal of the training was to offer information to area law enforcement and community partners to increase reporting and charging of the crime of stalking, Mary Kociela, Director of Domestic & Sexual Violence Projects at the DA’s Office, said.

Victims are experiencing stalking, but they often don’t report it, Kociela said.

There were 10 stalking cases received by the DA’s Office in a three-year period: four in 2016, one in 2017 and five in 2018.

These numbers are low, however, when compared to data from referrals to the NWDA’s Domestic High Risk Team, an interdisciplinary collaboration of law enforcement, state agencies, batterer’s intervention programs and victim advocates that works to identify high risk behaviors in order to maximize victim safety and offender accountability. Stalking, strangulation, sexual assault and escalating violence are among behaviors identified as at high risk of leading to homicide.

Referrals to the High Risk Team in the same three-year period between 2016 and 2018 included 45 cases of stalking: 11 in 2016, 15 in 2017 and 19 in 2018.

“Stalking is a serious crime for victims of intimate partner violence that can

actually escalate after the victim tries to separate from the abusive partner,” Kociela said.

Victims of stalkers might feel anxious, nervous, isolated, become stressed, or develop signs of depression.

Fleitman shared quotes from victims who have experienced stalking.

“It’s not easy to describe the fear you have when you see the stalker, or signs of the stalker, everywhere you go. I have given up all hopes of ever having a safe life,” one victim said.

“For the rest of my life, I will be looking over my shoulder, expecting to see him there,” another said.

Attendees participated in an exercise utilizing the SHARP tool, a 43-item web-based assessment which provides an assessment of the “big picture” of a stalking situation. The SHARP tool offers an easy way to assess the level of risk in stalking situations.

Spring Things with Patti Steinman next for Wistriahurst

HOLYOKE – On Wednesday March 24, 2021 at 2 p.m., Wistriahurst will present Spring Things with Patti Steinman a live, virtual program presented on Zoom. This program is open to all members of the public, but has been specially designed to address the needs of area seniors, many of whom continue to be socially isolated as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The program is free to attend, but spaces are limited and pre-registration is required.

Spring is a time for new growth, new

migrants, and beauty all around. Join us to take a virtual tour of spring in New England by looking at wildflowers, birds, salamanders and more with Patti Steinman of Mass Audubon.


Thank you to the generosity of the Alvarium Foundation for funding this program. The program is also supported through a Community Development Block Grant - COVID-19 Grant to address, prevent, and respond to the COVID-19 Pandemic that is administered through

the Holyoke Office of Community Development and has been planned in consultation with the Holyoke Council on Aging.

To register for Spring Things with Patti Steinman, please visit www.Wistriahurst.org or contact Eileen Maginnis at the Holyoke Council on Aging at maginnise@holyokey.org. If you have an idea for a topic you’d like to be considered for a future Wistriahurst session, please contact info@wistriahurst.org.



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JOIN US FOR A VIRTUAL Chair Yoga & Meditation Session

INSTRUCTED BY BRITTANY FROM YOGA ON THE RUN

Wednesday, March 24th • 10:30 AM

Join Day Brook Village for a virtual chair yoga and meditation session on Zoom to center your mind, body, and spirit. Brittany, from Yoga on the Run, is a certified yoga instructor, who teaches yoga and meditation classes to all ages. During this class you'll experience calming breathing techniques, meditations, light stretching and postures that can be done using a chair. We'll also share ways to incorporate meditation into your daily life.

Please visit www.RSVPDayBrookVillage.org to register and the zoom link will be sent to you.

*Must move in by 3/31/21. Terms and conditions apply. See Sales Director for complete details.



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